



CITY OF YORK EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

The Medical Inspection of Children in the York
Public Elementary Schools.

ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31st, 1916,

BY

EDMUND M. SMITH, M.D. (Edin.), D.P.H. (Camb.),

School Medical Officer and Medical Officer of Health.

Councillor K. E. T. WILKINSON

Chairman.

J. H. MASON,

Secretary.

EDUCATION OFFICES,
CLIFFORD STREET,
YORK.

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CITY OF YORK EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

NAMES OF MEMBERS.

1915-1916.

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ASSISTANT SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER :—

E. Scott Galbraith, L.R.C.P. & S. (Edin.) ; L.R.F.P. & S. (Glas.), D.P.H.

TEMPORARY ASSISTANT SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER since the outbreak of
the War :—

Norah Kemp, M.B., C.M.

OPHTHALMIC ASSISTANT SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER :—

Peter Macdonald, M.D.

DENTAL ASSISTANT SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER :—

T. E. Constant, M.R.C.S. (Eng.), L.D.S., L.R.C.P. (Lond.).

SCHOOL NURSES :—

Miss Annie E. Simpson, C.M.B., Certif., H.V. & S.N., Certif. Royal San. Inst.

Miss Margaret Grant, C.M.B., Certif., H.V. & S.N., Certif. Royal San. Inst.

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Miss J. Masterman.

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Miss D. Bousfield.

The Medical Inspection of Children in the York
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ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER, 1916.

To the Chairman and Members of the York Education
Committee.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit this the Ninth Annual Report on the Medical Inspection of the Scholars in the York Elementary Schools.

In accordance with the general request it is but a brief record of the work carried out. That work has been much handicapped and curtailed by the medical and other exigencies of the times ; however, it has been kept going to the utmost extent possible, attention having had to be concentrated largely upon the Clinic work, which has increased enormously during the War, and upon ailing or defective children referred from, or discovered in, the schools.

The Report contains all the statistical information about the work of the year 1916 upon record, and as required by the Board of Education.

During the year we have been fortunate in that Dr. Norah Kemp has been able to continue to act as temporary part-time Assistant School Medical Officer, in the continued absence at the war of Dr. Galbraith, and has been able to give from two to three hours per day to the routine medical inspections at the schools (so much of that work as was possible), the special examinations and other work of the School Clinic, supervision of treatment thereat, and the detailed supervision of the children in the special schools ; and I am much indebted to her for the zealous interest and hard work which she has contributed during the year.

From April 1st, 1915, the Board of Education required the inspection of an intermediate age-period of children, *i.e.*, those between eight and nine years of age, but as yet it has been impossible to carry out any of this additional work, important as it is.

The principal event of the year has been the opening of the new Knavesmire Council School (on April 10th, 1916), the design and facilities of which form a distinct advance upon the previously existing schools.

On behalf of Dr. Kemp and myself I beg to thank you for your support in our work throughout the past year.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

EDMUND M. SMITH,

School Medical Officer and
Medical Officer of Health.

May, 1917.

THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS NOW COMPRISE :—

Eleven provided and eighteen non-provided schools, 29 in all, including the two special schools.

The numbers of children on the school registers during the year 1916 were as follows :—

Total No. of children on the Registers on 31st						
January, 1916	..	..	..	..	..	14,275
Upper Department, Boys	..	..	..	..	4,767	
„ „ Girls	..	..	..	..	4,632	
Infants' „ Boys	..	..	..	..	2,516*	
„ „ Girls	..	..	..	..	2,360*	
Average attendance for the year ended 31st						
December, 1916 (87%)	..	..	..	..	..	12,564

* In these figures are included 781 children under 5 years of age (415 boys and 366 girls).

There are in the city 18 Private Schools, in addition to the Blue Coat Boys' and Grey Coat Girls' School, with 695 pupils on the registers. Medical Inspection of both pupils and buildings would no doubt be valuable in those schools also.

ORGANISATION OF THE SCHOOL MEDICAL SERVICE.

The Medical Staff continue to work in co-operation with the Education Office, the Head Teachers of Schools, the Health Department, the Tuberculosis Dispensary, and the Medical Charities.

The School Attendance Officers are closely associated with the work. Overlapping of their work and that of the school nurses has been avoided by the weekly lists sent to them from the School Clinic. The cases involved in such lists who were thus referred to the attendance officers, through the Secretary of the Education Committee, during 1916 numbered 8,065.

These figures cover almost all the cases which are truants in respect of the Clinic, and many of these have to be referred under this heading several times. The school nurse visits the home before the case is referred to the above officers.

In the clerical work of the Office of the School Medical Department, situated at No. 24, St. Saviourgate, a more and more complete series of forms and cards is in vogue in the inter-communications between the School Medical Service and the schools, parents, managers, attendance officers, etc.

THE WORK AND METHODS OF MEDICAL INSPECTION OF THE SCHOOL CHILDREN.

During the year it was found impossible to keep pace with the former requirements of the Board of Education as to the medical inspection of "entrants" and "leavers" ("code-groups"), owing to the enormous increase in the Clinic work (due largely to the war-depletions of medical staff, at the medical charities and in private practice), epidemic sickness in the city, and sickness among the staff. Also, the first two months of each year have now to be devoted to the medical inspection of the children attending Holgate Bridge School. This is in accordance with the requirements of the Mental Deficiency Act. Another six weeks have been devoted to the Secondary School; this School was inspected for the first time in 1915.

Frequent visits have also to be paid to the Open-Air School.

All school children who are contacts of a case of tuberculosis occurring in the family are examined in school, whether they come under the age-period for examination or not. This also takes up extra time, but it is time well spent as it is a matter of extreme importance. So in the latter part of the year it was decided to concentrate attention on the children of all ages found to be ailing or physically defective, and thus carry out the maximum amount of ameliorative work. These cases, like those of the children in the Special Schools, who are examined periodically, cost much more time per head than the average child examined in the course of the inspections of the whole of the children comprised in a code group. This course was approved by the Board of Education.

The numbers of scholars inspected and scheduled during 1916 were as follows (see also Tables 1, in Appendix A, and Table A, Appendix B) :—

	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
Code Groups { "Entrants," i.e., children in their 6th and 7th years	71	64	135
{ "Leavers," i.e., children in their 13th and 14th years	110	111	221
Children at "Special" School (boys only) ..	46	—	46
,, at "Open-air" School	13	15	28
Special cases of ailing children selected by Medical Staff and Head Teachers in the Elementary Schools	58	82	140
Totals ..	298	272	570

Percentage of parents present at medical inspection .. 21·5

In addition the Assistant School Medical Officer examined 19 children under the Mental Deficiency Act, some of which examinations cost about an hour's time.

The Schedule of the Board of Education.

Chest Girth.—This is only noted in special cases ;

Vaccination Marks.—Their number is recorded if observed ; no further action whatever is taken.

84·6 per cent. of the children scheduled in 1916 bore well-defined vaccination marks, as compared with 90 per cent. in 1910.

Number of Visits paid to the Schools and Departments.—

Visits to schools paid by the Assistant School Medical Officer :—

For the purpose of medical inspection of scholars ..	57	
Special visits in connection with threatened outbreaks of infectious disease, suspicious cases amongst the children, sanitation and equipment of schools, etc.		Carried out by the S.M.O. and School Nurses as required.

Tabular statement of work done by the School Nurses :—

<i>At Homes :—</i>	Nurse Simpson. Visits.	Nurse Grant. Visits.	Total.
Infectious and other Diseases notified by Head Teachers	1,992	2,031	4,023
“ Following-up ” Defects	386	653	1,039
Upon notifications of Ailing Children by Parents and Attendance Officers	101	252	353
Special Clinic cases	280	738	1,018
Infectious Cases Convalescent	141	99	240
Physically Defective Children not in attendance at school	20	61	81
Special visits to Homes of Mentally Defective Children	50	—	50
<i>At Schools :—</i>			
<i>Re</i> Infectious and Contagious cases or Ailing Children, or <i>re</i> Verminous Children	169	205	374
Open-air School	35	—	35
<i>Re</i> other matters	90	77	167
	<u>3,264</u>	<u>4,116</u>	<u>7,380</u>
Assisting School Medical Officer at Inspection ..	34½ days	5½ days	40
<i>Clinic.</i>			
Inspection and Treatment	352 hrs.	486½ hrs.	838½ hrs.
Dental	43½ ..	93 ..	136½ ..
Cleansing Children (Sect. 122) Number of children	2	—	2
Number of Swabs taken from throats of children on account of suspected Diphtheria	—	36	36

During the year Inspection was in all cases carried out on the school premises.

From an administrative point of view it proved very inconvenient that some of the schools had to be given up for occupation as Military billets during the winter, with the consequence that some schools had to share the same premises at different parts of the day, and some had to be divided in two or more separate buildings.

THE PHYSICAL CONDITION OF THE YORK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CHILDREN.

The Revelations of Medical Inspection in 1916 :—

The following are the principal percentages of defective conditions (in the Code groups only) covered by the Board of Education's abbreviated Table 2 (see Appendix A) :—

Cases of some degree of malnutrition	..	..	..	19
„ „ defective vision	..	..	..	23
„ „ deformity	..	..	..	5
„ uncleanliness of head	..	..	..	14
„ dental disease	..	..	..	86
„ adenoids and enlarged tonsils	..	..	..	7·3
„ definite or suspected tuberculosis	..	..	..	2·2

In view of the smaller totals inspected and the condensation of the detailed results, it is not possible to make fair comparisons with the percentages of previous years, but some of the above percentages are obviously too high to be satisfactory, and it is disappointing that those concerning uncleanliness and malnutrition come out so badly.

In this connection it must be remarked that among the many evil bye-products of the War have been the importations of Scabies (itch) and other contagious diseases, and a general slackening of effort on the part of many mothers in the care and feeding of their children.

Most marked before the War had been the great improvement in the prevalence of Ringworm, but even this ubiquitous foe has revived and demands unceasing efforts to keep it in check (see Table B, in the Appendix B, in which for comparison, the results of similar investigations during previous years are also inserted).

Printed leaflets as well as much verbal advice regarding the prevention and cure of several of these conditions are freely given to parents.

Seven cases of suspected Heart Disease were referred by Head Teachers to the School Medical Officer during 1916 for advice as to curriculum and physical exercises and games.

Twenty-three cases of Squint were successfully rectified.

Otorrhea.—During the year 121 children suffering from Otorrhea of one or both ears were treated or supervised at the Clinic, and the number of those who were still under treatment at the end of the year amounted to 75.

The long-proposed commencement of special classes for children afflicted with (*a*) stammering and other forms of defective speech and (*b*) partial blindness, has again been deferred, much to the regret of the School Medical Service.

Tuberculosis.—Cases of Tuberculosis amongst city children between 5 and 15 years of age, which were notified to the Medical Officer of Health during the year 1916, under the “Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1912,” of the Local Government Board. (See also Appendix A., Table 2):—

			Males.	Females.	Total.	
Tuberculosis of Lungs (Phthisis)*	..	8	11			19
„ of Neck Glands	..	7	8		15	
„ of Meninges (Meningitis)	..	—	2		2	
„ of Abdominal Glands	..	1	—		1	
„ of Spine	.. ..	2	—		2	
„ of Skin	.. ..	4	—		4	
„ of Hip Joint	.. ..	2	3		5	
„ of Other Joints	.. ..	1	1		2	
„ of Peritoneum	.. ..	1	3		4	
Totals	.. ..	26	28		35	35
						54

* Two of these cases had also developed other forms of tuberculosis.

Of these total notifications, 5 of the lung cases and 9 of “Other Tubercular” cases were sent in by the Tuberculosis Officer, and 4 and 9 respectively, by the Assistant School Medical Officer.

One case of Phthisis and 20 cases of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis were also notified amongst children under five years of age.

Total children excluded from school attendance during whole or part of year, 44.

Total deaths of children at ages 5—15 in York in 1916:—

	Total.
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	4
Non-Pulmonary „	7

The following provision exists for the treatment of tubercular cases occurring amongst city school children:—

(*a*) All cases are referred to the York Tuberculosis Dispensary as a clearing house, for diagnosis in doubtful cases, for supervision, and for tuberculin or other treatment when required.

(b) The temporary Open-Air School at No. 11, Castlegate.

	Boys.	Girls.	Totals.
Admitted to the Class in 1916	18	17	35
Discharged	7	15	22
On books December 31st, 1916.. ..	14	9	23

The after-care of these children is entrusted to the Tuberculosis Crusade Committee.

(c) The open-air ward and shelters for tubercular patients at the City Isolation Hospital, Yearsley Bridge.

Nine cases of children of school age were so referred by the Tuberculosis Officer during 1916.

(d) Cases requiring surgical treatment are sent into the York County Hospital, at the cost of the Corporation Health Committee.

Ten cases of children of school age were so referred by the Tuberculosis Officer during 1916.

THE OCCURRENCE OF INFECTIOUS OR CONTAGIOUS DISEASES AMONGST THE SCHOOL CHILDREN

and the action taken as to detection and prevention thereof.

During the year 1916 the most prevalent infectious diseases have been Measles, Whooping Cough, Chickenpox, and "Ophthalmia." Diphtheria was very much less prevalent than in preceding years.

The following tabular statement gives the numbers of school children notified to the Medical Officer of Health (Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria), and to the Assistant School Medical Officer (Measles, Whooping Cough and Chickenpox), for each of the past five years :—

	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Measles.	Whooping Cough.	Chickenpox.	Mumps
1912 ..	215	56	1,158	69	347	105
1913 ..	84	54	119	278	369	124
1914 ..	181	97	664	247	109	755
1915 ..	120	48	505	220	169	61
1916 ..	149	21	288	182	166	31

Scarlet Fever.—During 1916, the prevalence was not marked, 118 school cases occurring in the first six months, and 31 in the second six months of the year; 8 "missed" cases of Scarlet Fever were discovered by the School Nurses. No particular school or department was affected, except Scarcroft Road School (19 cases).

The cases were distributed as follows :—

		Primary cases.	Secondary cases.
7 years of age and under 7	Attending City Public Infants' Schools	35	6
	Not attending School	28	14
		63	20
At ages 7—14	Attending City Public Element- ary Schools (Upper Depts.) ..	84	24

Diphtheria.—Twenty-six of the cases among children occurred during the first half of the year, and only three during the second half, and they were distributed as follows :—

		Primary cases.	Secondary cases.
7 years of age and under 7	Attending City Public Infants' Schools	6	—
	Not attending School	7	1
		13	1
At ages 7—14	Attending City Public Element- ary Schools (Upper Depts.) ..	14	1

Measles.—The epidemic of Measles of the Autumn of 1915 continued during the first half of 1916 ; 75·7 per cent. of the cases of Measles occurred in the first quarter of the year ; 53·8 per cent. in the Infant Schools.

A great deal of time and special attention was devoted to the progress of the epidemic, and various means adopted in the endeavour to control it.

Below is a list of schools and classes which were closed for various periods in order chiefly to control the spread of measles and whooping cough. These were closed for minimum periods, and, as far as possible, in accordance with the suggestions of the Principal Medical Officers of the Local Government Board and Board of Education, as contained in their blue book memorandum on the subject issued in 1909. The epidemic was so extensive that, notwithstanding a good deal of opinion contrary to the closure of schools for this purpose, it seemed absolutely desirable to stop all public facilities whereby children

might infect each other ; and one cannot doubt but that some degree of prevention was thereby accomplished. Moreover, in some cases, there was hardly any class in the school but what was so much affected that it was hardly worth while carrying on the school. Again, be it said, that from the financial aspect it is most sincerely to be hoped that the Board of Education will see their way at an early date to revive "the epidemic grant."

LIST OF SCHOOL CLOSURES DURING 1916.

Name of School.	Date Closed.	Until.	On account of :—
Haxby Road (Babies' Class) ..	Jan. 21st	Feb. 21st	Whooping Cough.
Layerthorpe—			
Class II., Infants' Dept. ..	Jan. 21st	Feb. 21st	Whooping Cough and Measles.
All Children under 5 years	Feb. 1st	Feb. 28th	Measles and Whooping Cough
Shipton Street—			
Whole School except Stan.			
I. and II. Mixed Dept. ..	Jan. 27th	Feb. 24th	Do. do.
St. Clement's—			
All Children under 5 years	Jan. 21st	Feb. 21st	Measles, Whooping Cough and Chickenpox.
Whole Infants' Dept. ..	Feb. 18th	Feb. 28th	Measles.
Scarcroft Road—			
All Children under 5 years	Jan. 21st	Feb. 21st	Do.
Class VI., Infants' Dept. ..	Feb. 1st	Feb. 16th	Do.
Heworth, Infants' Dept. ..	Feb. 14th	Feb. 28th	Do.
St. Lawrence, Infants' Dept. ..	Feb. 18th	Feb. 28th	Do.
Poppleton Road—			
Class III., Infants' Dept. ..	Feb. 1st	Feb. 28th	Whooping Cough.
All Infants under 5 years	Jan. 21st	Feb. 21st	Measles, Whooping Cough and Chickenpox.
Park Grove—			
Class III., Infants' Dept., and all Children under 5 years	Feb. 14th	Feb. 28th	Measles.
Stan. I., Mixed Dept. ..	Feb. 15th	Feb. 28th	Do.
Class 2B, Infants'	Apr. 17th	May 1st	Do.

It was resolved early in December that all children under five years of age should be excluded from the Elementary Schools until the end of the epidemic.

As the epidemic seemed to be declining just before Xmas, these children, however, were re-admitted after Xmas and kept under close supervision, with the exception of some schools that were threatened with attack.

As it seemed as desirable to exclude children from Sunday schools as from day schools, use was made, for the first time, of Section 88 of the York Corporation Act, 1914, and the following circular was issued to the Superintendents of the Sunday schools of the City :—

16th December, 1915.

To the Superintendents of Sunday Schools
in the City of York.

I am requested by the Health Committee of the York Corporation to inform you that they have just had under their serious consideration the present extensive epidemic of measles prevailing in the city among young children, which has already produced serious mortality. They have therefore decided to act upon the Section 88 of the York Corporation Act, 1914 (a copy of which Section is set forth below), and hereby require you from this date to exclude from attendance at your Sunday School, or any department thereof (Band-of-Hope meetings, Xmas and other entertainments, etc.), all the young children under the age of eight years, until further notice, *i.e.*, until the epidemic is over.

I may mention that from the 1st January, 1916, the Local Government Board has made cases of Measles or German Measles compulsorily notifiable by parents, guardians, and doctors. You will presently see public advertisements calling attention to this important Order, which is intended to advance the prevention and treatment of measles.

EDMUND M. SMITH,

Medical Officer of Health.

88.—(1) If the Corporation or a Committee of the Council acting on the advice of the Medical Officer with the view of preventing the spread of infectious disease in the city require the closing of any Sunday School or any department thereof or the exclusion of certain children for a specified time such requirement shall be at once complied with.

(2) Any person responsible for the conduct or management of any Sunday School wilfully failing to comply with any such requirement shall for every such failure be liable to a penalty not exceeding One Pound.

On January 1st, 1916, the new Regulations of the Local Government Board came into force, which made all cases of Measles and German Measles compulsorily notifiable from that date. These Regulations were made known by posters and handbills, which were widely distributed, and through the press. The Regulations necessitated the employment of an extra nurse, and a former School Nurse (Nurse Humphries) was employed by the Health Committee for three or four months, temporarily. Warnings to parents, and to the teachers of day and Sunday schools, regarding the prevention, isolation and care of Whooping Cough, were also issued.

Next to day schools and Sunday schools, cinema theatres are perhaps the most common meeting place of children in any numbers. The proprietors of the five local cinema theatres were asked to exclude from the performances all young children

during the epidemic, and four of them consented to exhibit a warning lantern slide to the effect that persons from houses where measles, etc., were prevalent must not enter the theatre.

I believe that the exclusion of children under eight years of age from all the Sunday schools from the middle of December, and the careful exclusion of children or selected classes from the day schools according to need considerably prevented the spread of the disease; undoubtedly it delayed its progress, and, therefore, gave us a very much better chance of controlling the epidemic.

I set aside one of our Health Visitors entirely for the work of visitation of cases from the beginning of the year, and the maximum possible time of both School Nurses, apart from their attendance at the School Clinic; they did a great deal of very useful work in the prevention of the disease and its mortality.

Although the number of cases notified under the new compulsory Regulations since the beginning of the year (viz., 292), was very large, I believe it to be probable that if notification had been in force then, the numbers in October and November, 1915, would have been very much greater, as a larger number of schools were affected.

So far, I think the system of notification made compulsory by the Local Government Board, on January 1st, 1916, effected what I have said for years past would be the probable result, viz.:—that the fact of the disease being notifiable makes the general public more fully realize the seriousness of the disease, the necessity for care in isolation and treatment, and the desirability of having proper medical attendance. Notification also gives us special opportunities of educating the public about the disease and its dangers at a time when they are necessarily interested in the subject by reason of the attack upon their own homes.

As districts became clear of the disease, I was able, using the discretionary power conferred upon me by the Health Committee, to withdraw the Orders excluding the younger children from Sunday schools. Some of the Closing Orders upon the Junior Sunday schools supplying those likely to be attacked were prolonged for some weeks.

During the period from 1st January to 9th February, 1916, 292 cases of Measles and 3 cases of German Measles were notified, as follows :—

By whom notified.	MEASLES.		GERMAN MEASLES.	
	Primary cases in household.	Secondary cases in household.	Primary.	Secondary.
Doctors only	144	16	3	—
Householders only	59	18	—	—
Householder & Head Teacher	9	1	—	—
Doctor and Householder ..	13	7	—	—
Doctor and Head Teacher ..	12	1	—	—
Head Teacher only	7	5	—	—
Totals	244	48	3	Nil.
	292		3	

It is satisfactory to note that of the total notifications, 196 were received from Medical practitioners (viz.:—over 66 per cent.), which shews that medical attendance was being called in, as is so desirable in many cases; 107 notifications (over 36 per cent.) were received from householders.

The following table tabulates the ages of cases of Measles notified from 1st January to 9th February, 1916.

	Under one year.	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 8	8 to 15	15 and over.
Measles	16	31	26	42	48	71	47	11
German Measles ..	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—
Total ..	16	31	26	42	48	72	49	11
	73			90				

Total Measles :—292.

Total German Measles :—3.

Whooping Cough.—The number of cases of this disease notified by the Head Teachers during the year was 182; 86.0 per cent. occurred in the first half of the year; 87.3 of the notifications were from the Infants' Departments. The Bootham Ward Schools were those chiefly affected.

There were large numbers of indefinite cases of "Influenza," "Sore Throat," and "Ophthalmia," which were investigated by the School Nurses. Most of the latter cases were treated at the School Clinic and 156 were tested by swab ; 59 yielded the Koch-weeks Bacillus and 97 yielded other organisms.

SCABIES AND PEDICULOSIS :—

The Chief Inspector of Nuisances, Mr. Drummond, has kindly furnished the following data in connection with these cases :—

Number of houses inspected 115, of which were :—							
Dirty	35						
Moderately clean	80						
Number of houses where bedding was removed for steam disinfection							
109							
Number of houses where bedding was not removed owing to bedding being clean							
6							

CLEANSING NOTICES UNDER SECTION 122 OF THE CHILDREN ACT, 1908.—The following is an account of the work done in this connection :—

Number of cleansing notices served on parents by the Education Department (Body lice)	..	..	..	38
Number of children referred to the Medical Officer of Health by the Assistant School Medical Officer since January 1st, 1916	..	..	..	38
Number of children cleansed at home	..	..	..	38
Number of schools affected	..	..	..	15

New leaflets as to the prevention and treatment of Scabies and Contagious Ophthalmia were compiled and issued in July, 1916.

One of the worries of the War has been the greatly increased prevalence of Scabies, no doubt due to repeated importations of the disease by new recruits, and by soldiers home on leave ; by personal contact, and by occupying infected beds, and so forth, the disease spreads more or less through all the members of a household. It is a parasitic disease of the skin, easily cured if attended to at once, but requiring some perseverance if allowed to become chronic. In this perseverance many persons fail, and hence the continuance of this very contagious disease, and the effect upon school attendance. Last September it was resolved to call the attention of the military authorities to the matter through the National Association of Education

Committees, that more careful scrutiny should be exercised and periods of quarantine insisted upon before soldiers' leave is given. However, this movement does not seem to have had any outcome.

THE "FOLLOWING-UP" AND MEDICAL TREATMENT OF THE PHYSICAL DEFECTS IN THE SCHOOL CHILDREN.

"Following-up."—Whatever *defects* are *discovered upon* medical inspection an advice note is sent to the parents, and verbal efforts of persuasion by the Assistant School Medical Officer, School Nurses, Managers, Care Committees, and others follow. Every case is given ample opportunity to consult its own chosen medical adviser.

Failing the above-mentioned efforts of persuasion there are the levers of exclusion from school in suitable cases, the pressure of the Medical or School Attendance Sub-Committees of the Education Committee, and, in the last resort, proceedings in the Police Court under the Cruelty or Neglect Section (Section 12) of the Children Act of 1908.

(See Table 4, Appendix A, as to results of treatment and following-up.)

During the year 208 children were reported to the Secretary of the Education Committee for irregularity of attendance at the Clinic; in 103 cases strong warnings were sent to the parents; in 15 cases parents were interviewed by a Sub-Committee, and six children were referred to the magistrates. The parents of two children (sisters) were fined 5s. od.

Medical Treatment.—The facilities at the disposal of ailing or defective school children may now be stated as follows :—

- (1) The General School Clinic ;
- (2) The Ophthalmic School Clinic ;
- (3) The Dental School Clinic ;
- (4) Intractable ringworm of the scalp is X-rayed by the specialist at the County Hospital ;
- (5) The Tuberculosis Dispensary ; and the Open-Air Class ;
- (6) The Open-Air Wards at the Isolation Hospital ;
- (7) The York Dispensary, Duncombe Place, is available for the treatment of suitable cases ;
- (8) The York County Hospital is available for those cases, both medical and surgical, which require "hospital treatment," provided the patient presents the necessary "hospital note."

THE SCHOOL CLINIC.

The School Clinic has had an extremely busy year, as witness the following tables. Besides a General Inspection Clinic for the supervision of children who are unfit to be in attendance at school, and a Treatment Clinic for children suffering from the so-called "minor" ailments (such as external eye diseases, impetigo, "eczema," discharging ears, etc.), there are the Dental and Ophthalmic Departments.

Sessions of Clinics and Attendances in 1916.

	General Inspection.	Miscellaneous Treatment.	Ophthalmic.	Dental.	Totals for :—	
					1916.	1915.
Number of Clinic Sessions held	86	353	37	376	852	587
Average attendance per Session	100·7	47·6	14·7	10·1	34·9	25·7
Number of children who attended the Clinic ...	1,887	1,021	246	1,435	4,589	3,455
Number of attendances at the Clinic	8,662	16,823	544	3,781	29,810	15,131

The number of children who attended the "General Inspection," and "Miscellaneous Treatment" Clinics during the year, the number of attendances made, and the number of children still in attendance on the 31st December, 1916 :—

	January to Midsummer.	Midsummer to December 31st.	Totals.	
	1916	1916	* 1916	1915
Number of children who attended	1,424	1,484	2,908	1,709
Number of attendances	10,280	15,205	25,485	10,909
Number of children still attending	304	337	337	204

The following tabular statement classifies the children according to the various diseases and defects from which they were suffering:—

	January —July.	August— December	Children who were still attending the Clinic on 31st December, 1916, with the undermentioned defects.	Totals.	
	1916.	1916.		* 1916.	1915.
Scalp Ringworm	117	98	37	215	173
Body Ringworm	41	29	6	70	82
Pediculosis (Lice and Nits) ..	101	141	7	242	90
Impetigo ("Scab-head") ..	284	219	30	503	365
Eczema	40	38	6	78	96
Contagious Ophthalmia ..	272	559	67	831	214
Blepharitis ("Sore Eyelids")	19	21	9	40	41
Scabies (Itch)	90	122	76	212	36
Abscess	18	4	1	22	16
Otorrhœa (Discharging Ears)	95	86	75	181	127
Debility	16	7	1	23	30
Defective Vision and Squint	16	6	..	22	64
Various	497	357	42	854	727
Total defects	1,606	1,687	357	3,293	2,061

* In these totals some cases are duplicated from the first half-year to the second.

In most of the above cases parents were as usual given reasonable opportunity to obtain treatment from their own medical attendant or other sources, failing which they were requested and persuaded to send their children to the School Clinic.

We have already referred to the revived prevalence of ringworm. Every possible measure for reducing the length of absence of children from school owing to this disease has been tried at one time or another, and all these have proved that there is nothing for it but absenting the affected child from school and carrying on treatment until completely cured. The latter can only be ascertained by the aid of the microscope. It is impossible to exaggerate the difficulties of the Clinic in this respect, owing to the indifference and lack of perseverance on the part of parents as to treatment for what they regard only too often as a mere contemptible trifle.

In the autumn the unruly crowds of children attending the School Clinic led to the trial of an experiment which is referred to in a subsequent paragraph on School Attendance.

Scalp Ringworm (Tinea Tonsurans).

101 new cases of ringworm of the scalp were discovered amongst the children attending the elementary schools, and the total number of cases dealt with during the year was 151, as follows :—

Amongst children notified by Head Teachers on					
Forms A and C	62				
Amongst children medically inspected	—				
Discovered by School Nurses	29				
Amongst children brought to the clinic by parents, etc. 10					
Carried over from 1915 (50 children who were still under treatment)	50				
Total	151				

107 of the above children were re-admitted to school during 1916 as cured, as follows :—

After X-ray treatment at Hospital	17*
„ private treatment	33
„ treatment at School Clinic	47
„ treatment from other sources	10
Total re-admitted to school as cured	107
Left York, etc.	7

The remaining 37 children were still in receipt of treatment at the close of 1916, 20 of whom were re-admitted to school early in 1917.

The ages of the above 151 children were as follows :—

Age-periods.	No. of Children.
Under 5 years of age	10
5-7	51
7-11	71
11-14	19
Total	151

* Arrangements were made whereby the X-ray Surgeon should keep in closer touch with the School Clinic.

The Dental Clinic.

Dentist :—MR. T. E. CONSTANT, M.R.C.S., L.D.S., who devotes about 15—20 hours per week to the work.

The children of five to eight years of age form the special care of the Clinic, according to the policy of the Board of Education, of saving the teeth at the critical period of the commencement of eruption of the permanent or second teeth,

by the methods of conservative (or preservative) dentistry. Such children with defective teeth discovered in the school inspections are persuaded to come to the School Clinic if they do not go to their own dentists, which but few do.

It has not proved easy, however, to get these little ones to come to the Clinic; their parents plead that treatment is unnecessary and that "milk teeth" don't require attention, or that they are unable to bring them or send them. Nevertheless much good work has been accomplished and the progress in the matter of "fillings" has been very satisfactory.

Dental Work done at the School Clinic during the year 1916.

The number of Clinics held during the year was 376.

The total number of children invited to attend the Dental Clinic was 2,274 (1,235 boys and 1,039 girls.) The following is an account of the number of those who attended the Clinic :—

Children of 5 to 8 years of age	383	} 1,435
"Followed-up" cases of previous years ..	854	
Urgent cases	198	

Number of children who were fully treated ..	346
Number of children partially treated	747
Number of children inspected only	276
Number of children who refused treatment ..	66

Total .. 1,435

Dental work done during the year :—

Inspections	951
Fillings	2,649
Dressings	981
Regulations	70
Extractions .. .	1,080

Every available hour of the School week is now occupied by sessions of the Dental Clinic, totalling about 20 hours per week.

The Ophthalmic Clinic.

The Ophthalmic Assistant School Medical Officer attends to such cases as have not been dealt with by private practitioners within one month after reference of the case to the attention of the parents, and to such cases as cannot be dealt with by the Assistant School Medical Officer.

The Education Committee renewed the contract for twelve months with Messrs. Charles Ledsham & Co., Stonegate, York, for the supply of spectacles as prescribed by the Ophthalmic Medical Officer for the elementary school children. The Committee pays the contractor for the spectacles on a fixed scale of charges ranging from 2/- to 3/3 per pair for ordinary glasses, and 4/- and 5/6 for extreme cases.

Cases of squint and other cases which need operation are referred to the York County Hospital.

All cases of myopia are automatically re-examined at intervals.

Work performed by the Ophthalmic Assistant School Medical Officer (Peter Macdonald, M.D.) during the year 1916 :—

Total number of Ophthalmic Clinics held	..	..	..	37
Total number of new cases seen during the year	..	..	..	233
Total number of attendances of children	..	..	..	544
Number (average) of children who attended each Clinic	..	..	..	14.7

ROUTINE CASES—

	Boys.	Girls.	Total	
5—7 years of age ...	9	12	21	} 89
12—14 years of age ...	39	29	68	

NON-ROUTINE CASES—

	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	
5—7 years of age ...	21	17	38	} 144
8—14 years of age ...	56	50	106	

Total .. 233

“ Routine ” cases are those discovered in school during medical inspection.

“ Non-routine ” cases are those who have otherwise been discovered, referred by Head Teachers, or School Managers, or by the County Hospital.

Total children :—

For whom spectacles were prescribed	..	..	..	155
Who were prescribed for otherwise than by spectacles	..	..	..	54
Whose present spectacles were found to be correct	..	..	..	16
Still under treatment 31st Dec., 1916	..	..	..	8
Total	..	..	..	233

Number of cases of Squint examined during 1916	..	..	36
Ditto in which glasses were prescribed	..	..	23
Ditto in which operation was advised	..	..	8
Ditto in which glasses were not considered necessary	..	..	5

Exact Defects of Vision :—

Hypermetropia (long sight)	..	..	57
Hypermetropic Astigmatism	..	..	62
Mixed Astigmatism	..	..	22
Myopia (short sight)	..	..	18
Myopic Astigmatism	..	..	41
			— 200

In combination with these, were 36 cases of Strabismus (Squint) :—

Convergent Strabismus	..	..	..	35
Alternating	..	..	..	1
Divergent	..	..	..	—
				— 36

Other Defects of Visual Apparatus :—

Iritis	1	
Leucomata of Cornea	3	
Cataract	2	
Spasm (eye strain)	12	
	—	18
No defect needing Spectacles		15

During the year prescriptions for spectacles have been issued to the contracting optician as follows :—

Sphericals	46
Cylindricals	19
Sphero-Cylindricals	40
Combinations of these	50
Total	155

	£	s.	d.
The total cost of the above glasses was	23	1	2
The total amount recovered from parents was	20	5	5
Amount still owing on 31st December, 1916	2	15	9

Percentage of costs recovered = 87·9.

In 74 cases the spectacles were paid for in full ;

In 41 cases the spectacles were paid for in full by instalments ;

In 30 cases the spectacles were being paid for by instalments ;

In 2 cases the amount was remitted by the Education Committee ;

In 8 cases no attempt at payment had been made up to the 31st December.

Some enquiries were made with a view to establishing a special class or classes for partially blind children, as the new Head Master of the Yorkshire School for the Blind objected to receiving such cases into his school, but it has not yet been possible to effect any satisfactory settlement of the question.

It was decided by the Education Committee to carry out the medical treatment of children attending City Elementary Schools from districts outside the city boundary and of the Board of Guardians' boarded-out children, and a few such cases have attended the Clinic during the year.

Grants received or due from the Board of Education :—

(a) In respect of Medical Inspection or inspection and treatment :—

	£	s.	d.
For year ending March 31st, 1913	185	18	9
„ „ „ 1914	516	12	6
„ „ „ 1915	543	10	3
„ „ „ 1916	588	1	7

(b) In respect of Temporary Special School for Mentally Defective Children :—

			£	s.	d.
For year ending March 31st, 1913	...	...	237	8	0
" " " " 1914	...	...	224	9	0
" " " " 1915	...	...	222	17	0
" " " " 1916	...	...	126	0	0

(c) In respect of Temporary Open-Air School for Physically Defective Children :—

			£	s.	d.
For year ending March 31st, 1915	...	...	65	16	10
" " " " 1916	...	...	180	0	0

THE CARE OF INFANTS UNDER SCHOOL AGE ; SCHOOLS FOR MOTHERS, &c.

This work is being carried on by the York Infants' Welfare Association and the Corporation Health Visitors, working in co-operation. This Association receives grant from the Board of Education as a School for Mothers and from the Corporation, and its rooms form the " Maternity Centre " within the scheme of the L.G.B. The rooms are at No. 22, St. Saviourgate and at No. 74, Stamford Street, Leeman Road. Staff :—Honorary Medical Officers ; Superintendent, Miss Follows ; Assistant Nurse, Miss M. Swanson. Practical instruction is given in the care of young children, in domestic and personal hygiene, home nursing, the making of clothing, etc. The institution serves as a dispensary for the granting of detailed advice to expectant and nursing mothers, and for the young children. The mothers are visited at their homes. There are sewing meetings, a thrift club, and other detailed means of help.

Education Grant received :—1913–1914, £66 16s. 7d.

1914–15, £96 os. 6d. 1916, £116.

Children between 1 and 5 years of age supervised	..	..	511
Total attendances at Clinics	..	..	4,045
Total Visits paid	..	..	2,898

Mothers now often bring up two or three children to the Clinics and these are inspected, and in visiting babies enquiries are also made about the health of the older little ones, whose welfare is being increasingly kept in mind.

By the Circular of the Board of Education (No. 879) grants are now received towards the cost of working the Crèche conducted for young children by the Sisterhood of St. Vincent de Paul, in Fishergate, which has satisfactory accommodation for 15—20 babies and young children.

THE SPECIAL SCHOOLS.

Review of action taken as regards Blind, Deaf, and Mentally and Physically Defective Children, under the Special Acts of 1893 and 1899—(Elementary Education (Blind and Deaf Children) Act, 1893), (Elementary Education (Defective and Epileptic Children) Act, 1899).

There are at present :—

Ten children at Special Schools for the Deaf and Dumb—seven being at the Doncaster School, and three at Boston Spa.

Seven children at Special Schools for the Blind—six of whom are at the York Blind School, and one at Liverpool.

Three epileptics inmates of residential schools—one at Much Hadham, one at Starnthwaite, and one in the Chalfont Colony.

Forty-nine educable mentally defective boys attend the temporary Special School at Holgate Bridge, York, one is at Hopwell Hall Home, Derby, and one at Pontville; also a girl at the Allerton Priory R.C. Special School for Mentally Defective Girls. At present no local special provision for the education of educable mentally defective girls, under the above-mentioned Act, exists; neither is there any special provision for physically defective children other than tubercular or pre-tubercular children, for whose benefit we have a temporary open-air school at No. 11, Castlegate. We have a number of crippled, delicate and ill-nourished children for whom a larger open-air school would be a great boon.

The Temporary Special School for Mentally Defective Boys at Holgate Bridge, York.

Total Boys on register, September 30th, 1915	..	47
Number of boys admitted October 1st, 1915, to September 30th, 1916	.. .. .	20
Number of boys who were removed from the school register October 1st, 1915, to September 30th, 1916		18
Total boys on register September 30th, 1916..	..	49

Reasons for leaving :—

Transferred to ordinary elementary schools (at age 12)	I
Left school for employment (at ages 14—15)	.. 12
Left York (at age 15)	.. .. . 1
Arrived at age-limit (16)	.. .. . 3
Transferred to Open-Air School	.. .. . 1
	—
Total	.. .. 18
	—

Amongst the boys are 10 affected with stammering or other forms of defective speech ; 4 with defective hearing ; 3 with adenoids. In 4 cases the clothing was very defective.

The children have been thoroughly examined as to their mental and physical condition by the A.S.M.O. during the year. In addition, numerous visits have been paid by the School Medical Officer and the Assistant S.M.O. to see how the school was being conducted.

Number of boys admitted since the commencement					
of the school to September 30th, 1916					110
,, re-admitted					5
Boys left school in 1912-13 (October to September) ..					16
,, ,, ,, 1913-14 ,, ,, ..					14
,, ,, ,, 1914-15 ,, ,, ..					8
,, ,, ,, 1915-16 ,, ,, ..					18
					56

The staff consists of :--A Head Mistress, with two assistant female teachers (one certif., one uncertif.) ; Male Manual Instructor (part-time) in woodwork and gardening ; two women are engaged in connection with the dinners and subsequent kitchen work ; bath-attendant (three half-days per week). School-Nurse Simpson visits the homes of the boys, when they are sick or there are other reasons, as required.

The Head Mistress attended the Summer School for teachers of mentally defective children, held in London, in July, at the cost of the Committee.

Manual occupations constitute a large portion of the curriculum and comprise over 36 different varieties.

Some excellent joinering and other manual work has been accomplished, also some advanced woodwork (8 pupils), and kitchen-gardening (11 pupils). We should like to add cobbler's work, but it is still impracticable.

Mid-day dinner is provided at the school, of which about an average of 18 per week availed themselves during the year, an average of 95 pennies per week being paid towards the cost ; the remainder (16) have their meals free of cost. On the occasions of our recent visits to the school we have found the children clean and being supplied with excellent nourishing meals. About 32 of the boys receive a warm slipper bath at the school every week, under the supervision of a matronly bath attendant.

This school is hardly getting fair play during the War ; every truly defective boy ought to be retained according to the special laws until he is 16, but it has been very difficult to insist upon that in face of the extra demand for boy labour and in the absence of more advanced trade-training.

Idiots, imbeciles, and certain border-line cases are notified to the recently constituted Local Control Authority. There is a small number of cases of educable mentally defective children (not being idiots or imbeciles) for whom a *residential* school is necessary. The most pressing need at present is for accommodation (residential) for Epileptic children.

Your School Medical Officer attended a discussion on the administration of the Mental Deficiency Act at a Conference of the Royal Sanitary Institute held in London in the Summer, and submitted a report on the discussion to the Committee.

The boys leaving the Special School between 14 and 16 years of age are notified to the Special Committee appointed under the Mental Deficiency Act.

The Reformatory at Cattal is now utilised as a County Institution for those affected by the Mental Deficiency Act, but no cases under 16 years of age are admitted.

The Temporary Open-Air School (Castlegate Temporary Council School for Tuberculous Children).

The Open-Air Class, which has been held in the garden of No. 11, Castlegate, behind the Tuberculosis Dispensary, since August 18th, 1913, is approved by the Board of Education as a special school for 20 physically defective children, and it continues to maintain its recognised usefulness. The school has been established for definitely tubercular cases for the most part, but anæmic, weakly, and other possibly pre-tubercular children are admitted according to accommodation. Great care is taken to exclude any child in an infectious condition.

The curriculum comprises all the ordinary school work, simple and practical lessons in dental and general hygiene, gardening, organised games, raffia, needlework, modelling, and other handiwork, with periods of reclining rest and Swedish exercises.

As the maintenance of nutrition is as important as the open-air life, the children receive three meals per day, per the Provision of Meals Sub-Committee of the Education Committee.

The school-work is conducted by one lady teacher.

The certifying of children into the school and the general supervision of the class is carried out by the School Medical Officers, assisted by the School Nurse and Tuberculosis Nurse. Special supervision and treatment as to *tubercular* conditions is carried out by the Tuberculosis Officer. A certain number of the scholars are under tuberculin treatment.

Dr. Norah Kemp inspected the children six times during the year, and scheduled the results. In November, 1916, the school was inspected by Dr. Bywaters of the Board of Education.

There were 53 children on the roll for varying periods during 1916 (26 boys and 27 girls). Most of those discharged during the year now attend ordinary schools.

Totals of children who have passed through the school during 1916 :—

				Boys.	Girls.	Total.
Admitted	..	..	..	18	17	35
Discharged	..	..	..	7	15	22
On Roll 31st December, 1916	..			14	9	23

Average length of stay in the school per pupil, 211 days.

The tubercular cases were as follows :—Neck glands, 14 ; lungs, 14 ; tracheo-bronch. glands, 5 ; skin, 3 ; hip joint, 7 ; tibia, 1 ; spine, 2 ; abdomen, 1 ; other joints, 1. The remaining five cases were weakly children, contacts of tubercular cases.

	Stones.	lbs.	ozs.
Average weight on admission to the School . .	3	12	0
" " " discharge from the School	4	0	1

The *average increase* in the boys was 5 lbs. 4 ozs., and in the girls was 2 lbs. 12 ozs.

*Medical Inspection of Pupils attending the Municipal
Secondary School for Girls.*

The desirability of such inspection was suggested in Circular No. 779 of the Board of Education, dated June, 1911, particularly with regard to the fitness of the pupils for participating in gymnastic exercises and in such vigorous games as tennis and hockey.

The first inspection of the pupils in this school took place in the Autumn of 1915.

The medical history, general health and physique of each pupil and their fitness for vigorous physical exercises is noted. The examination and filling up of the form is carried out by the pupil's own medical adviser, or by the Assistant S.M.O., as preferred by the parents. No compulsion is involved, but the response of parents has been most gratifying. (There were only six refusals.)

The results of the 1916 inspection may be summarised as follows :—In all, forms were returned for 203 pupils, 101 examined for the first time, 102 for the second time, and were filled in in 77 cases by private medical practitioners (of whom one was a lady practitioner), and in 126 cases by the Temporary lady Assistant School Medical Officer.

Particulars regarding 101 girls examined for the first time:—

Medical History.—The main facts were that 50 had at some time suffered from measles, 12 from scarlet fever, and 32 from whooping cough ; 2 from tuberculosis ; 2 rheumatism ; 2 from diseases of nervous system ; 2 pneumonia ; 1 rickets.

Family History.—In two instances history of tubercular disease was obtained.

Normal Children.—55 of the girls appeared to be absolutely normal in health and physique apart from defects of teeth.

Deformities.—Six of the girls had some deformity of slight degree, of chest, spine, legs, or mouth.

Vision.—In 75 cases no defect of vision was recorded. In 6 cases there was defective vision (mostly myopia or astigmatism), for which suitable spectacles were being worn ; in 19 cases of defective vision no spectacles were being worn, and in 1 case those worn were unsuitable or doubtful as to their suitability. (Total cases of defective vision, 26.)

Hearing and Speech.—Only two cases, defects not important.

Adenoids.—Fifteen girls had more or less enlarged tonsils, in one case accompanied by adenoids. (In all 14·8 per cent. of the total children were thus affected.) In six girls enlarged tonsils or adenoids had been already removed.

Teeth.—25 of the girls appeared to have entirely sound sets of teeth. Amongst the remainder (76) decaying teeth varied in number from one to eleven per head. In 56 pupils the carious teeth were under four per head ; in 20 there were from four to eleven per head. Some sets of teeth had been recently treated and some others were under the dentist at the time of inspection—4 in all.

Miscellaneous Defects.—There were four cases of anæmia, two of enlarged cervical glands, and one of goitre.

Gymnastic Exercises and Games.—Limitation of physical exercises was recommended in 4 instances, for anæmia and pulmonary catarrh. Limitation of games was recommended in two of the cases.

Particulars regarding 102 girls examined for the second time:—

In 68 cases the girls had been weighed and measured. 54 girls had decaying teeth, varying in number from one to eight. (24 had evidently received some dental treatment since the first inspection.)

Seven girls were noted as having defective vision, two of whom were wearing suitable spectacles, three were not provided with glasses, and in two cases the glasses worn were unsuitable.

One girl had had the tonsils excised, two had enlarged tonsils, one had anæmia and naso-pharyngeal catarrh, one had otorrhoea, two had enlargement of the thyroid gland, and one had a tendency to lateral curvature.

Judicious supervision in games and physical exercises was recommended in two instances.

Total new and re-examined cases who were weighed and measured :—

Age-Period.	Total Girls.	Average Height. inches.	Average Weight. lbs.
11—12	15	56·76	77·0
12—13	33	57·9	78·52
13—14	38	59·7	90·6
14—15	28	61·1	93·8
15—16	26	61·95	102·6

Provision of Meals for Necessitous Children :—Your School Medical Officer, when possible, attends the meetings of the Sub-Committee dealing with this matter. The School Medical Officers from time to time meet with needy, ill-nourished children for whom these meals should be provided, and children whose condition as to nutrition is in any doubt are occasionally referred to them.

It has been impossible for the Medical Staff to keep closely in touch with this work and with the matter of Physical Exercises as one would have desired. But dinners were provided, mostly in the Central Mission Hall, and in accordance with the wishes of the Board of Education.

There is nothing further to record, except that the numbers of children requiring meals greatly declined in 1916, the average weekly number fed during the year having fallen from 319 in 1914 to 105 in 1916, and as low as 37 in August.

By resolution of the Education Committee in September, most of the parents of the children attending the Open-Air School, whose weekly earnings are above the scale fixed for necessitous children by the Meals Sub-Committee, are now asked to repay half the cost of the meals supplied to their children as part of the special treatment at the school, at the discretion of the Special Schools Sub-Committee. Only one case was found to be necessitous in the autumn. The whole cost of the three meals per day is 8d., or $3\frac{1}{4}$ per week. It was ascertained

that 50 per cent. of the parents were willing to pay half the total cost. It must be borne in mind that "the education of the scholars in this school is only of secondary importance, the chief aim being to improve the physical condition of the pupils. This is fully recognised by the Board of Education, which pays a grant of £9 per head, against £2 per head for scholars in an ordinary elementary school. Part of the £9 grant—£3 at least—is in aid of the expenditure incurred on the medical treatment and general care, including meals, of the children, and the Board has power to withdraw any part of the grant if they are not satisfied that the school is properly managed."

Food Economy.—Hundreds of the Board of Education's booklets have been sold to householders by the Health Visitors and School Nurses, and hundreds of other shorter leaflets have been distributed free.

"During the months of April and May 12 lectures on War-time Cookery were given by four of the Cookery Instructresses, at the Poppleton Road Centre, Haxby Road Centre, Walmgate Centre, and Clifton Wesleyan Lecture Hall, which were much appreciated by the outside public, who were invited to attend."

Physical Exercises.—The School Medical Office continues to be of service as a bureau of reference regarding children for whom certain physical exercises might be unwise or dangerous. During the year seven children suffering from heart disease were specially excluded from drill, and instructions were sent to the Head Teachers accordingly. We view with satisfaction the movements for the organisation of outdoor games, the Boy Scout movement, the work of the Schools' Athletic Association, the increased facilities for learning swimming for both boys and girls, and the use of playing fields; physical training is thus brought into pleasant practical use and made more interesting to the children.

Juvenile Employment Bureau.

Arrangements exist whereby the Bureau is able to benefit by the records of Medical Inspection, made during their school life, of children about to enter into the world of employment.

We view with anxiety the increased employment of school children—with its attendant evils of overwork, exhaustion, muscular strain, and insufficiency of rest and sleep, during the vital years of growth—which the War has involved, inevitable though that may be, and trust that this matter will be thoroughly righted upon the return of more normal civil life.

The Hygienic Arrangements and Equipment of the School Buildings.

The School Medical Officer has attended most of the meetings of the Sites Sub-Committee, as adviser in the hygienic designing of schools in relation to the health and physique of the children.

The New Knavesmire Council School was opened on the 10th April, 1916, with a commencing total of 593 scholars. The accommodation of the school is fixed at :—

Boys, 250 ; Girls, 300 ; Infants, 250 ; Total 800.

The design of this school is in many respects quite novel, and on the whole the result is exceedingly pleasing. One only wishes now that the site had been rather more raised, and less in a depression, and that the school had been better placed with regard to the sun. Its main facades are almost direct North and South instead of being respectively S.E. and N.W., but that, I believe, was not the fault of the local designer. Almost the whole of the school is on one floor level. The school premises comprise a domestic subjects centre. The cloakrooms are a great improvement on their predecessors in most of the other schools, the fittings being of galvanized metal, and they are warmed by hot water pipes. Unfortunately, it has been impossible, owing to the War, to complete the asphaltting of the playground ; the furnishing of the school has also had to be carried out in a temporary manner, miscellaneous desks being borrowed from other schools, and the assortment of sizes is not satisfactory. The chief novelties of the school are (a) the spray baths and foot-bath, which have been opened not fully completed ; here twenty-six children at a time can have a shower bath with warm water and soap. (b) In the classrooms on the south side of the school the outer walls consist of practically nothing but folding windows, which can be thrown open and folded back so as to make the rooms open-air classrooms. These rooms are very much appreciated. It has been found that the N.E. corner of the school, now it is built, is so situated that, if other buildings were erected near at hand, the lighting of those classrooms would be seriously affected ; however, the Committee have effected the option of purchasing the adjacent land after the War, and we most sincerely hope that this will be carried out, as otherwise this beautiful new school may be spoilt. Adjacent playing fields are required in any case.

Steps have been taken to secure a site for a new school on the Tang Hall Building Estate. A new school to supply the districts of Layerthorpe and Heworth will be very welcome.

The Inspector of Elementary Schools made a proposal that some of the numerous *long old desks* might be converted into fairly satisfactory dual desks, and your School Medical Officer spent some time in investigating the possibilities of the suggestion. Estimates were obtained for carrying out an experiment, but it was found that the alteration of the old desks in the manner proposed would cost more than buying absolutely new dual desks.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Pupil Teachers examined :—

Five pupil teachers were medically examined during the year by the Assistant School Medical Officer as to their physical fitness for their future career. They all passed the test.

Industrial School Children :—

Ten boys and girls about to be sent to truant schools or industrial schools were also medically examined by the Assistant School Medical Officer, and all passed the test.

Microscopical Work :—

During the year, 40 swabs, taken from the throat or nose of suspected, convalescent or contact school cases of diphtheria were bacteriologically examined.

Ringworm Hairs: 338 microscopical examinations were made of hairs taken from the heads of children suspected to be suffering from ringworm of the scalp, or recovering therefrom.

Teaching of Infant Management in the Elementary Schools :—

On five occasions one of the Health Visitors has attended at the central Domestic Centre, and has given a demonstration to the senior girls on the washing and proper dressing and care of infants, on a live and healthy baby, loaned for the occasion by a mother, who was in each case present and quite proud to be so.

School Attendance Difficulties :—

In May the somewhat serious reduction in school attendance, namely, 4 per cent., as compared with the previous year, led the Secretary to the Education Committee to make an exhaustive enquiry into the causes, some of which were directly or indirectly attributable to the War, *e.g.*, the prevalence of measles, scabies, ringworm, contagious ophthalmia, pediculosis, etc. The School Medical Service willingly joined in trying to effect some improvement in methods, and, as a consequence of the discussions on the subject :—

(a) The appeal (already referred to) was made to the military authorities about scabies.

(b) In every case of exclusion from school by the School Clinic for a probably long period a card is now supplied to the children for production to the Attendance Officer when visiting, so as to assist him in his work of maintaining school attendance.

(c) The Attendance Officers are to give increased attention to long absences caused by negligent parents, and to truants from the School Clinic ; (undoubtedly there is an increasing need for an additional School Nurse, as the work is developing, and the influence of the School Clinic increasing).

(d) In cases of scabies and pediculosis, more thorough enquiries to be made for other affected persons in the same household, and steps taken to get them cured as well as the school children, under the special powers obtained by the Corporation in 1914.

(e) Efforts were made to obtain still more co-operation from the teachers in the schools, and the help of the Head Teachers' Association in this respect was volunteered.

(f) A thorough investigation is to be made into causes of low percentage each month at all schools in which the attendance is more than 2 per cent. below the average for the City.

(g) Teachers to be again warned as to the danger of re-admitting infected children to school before notice to that effect from the School Clinic.

(h) Parents negligent of contagious conditions in their children to be more drastically dealt with by the School Attendance Committee, and by the magistrates.

(i) To cope with the mixed crowds of children in the Clinic waiting-room a very successful experiment was carried out in the autumn, and is being continued. The services of a lady ex-teacher, with special faculty for talking to and interesting children, were obtained. She attends on the busy Clinic mornings, and tells the waiting children stories and gives them lecturettes until their turn comes to go into the doctor's consultation room.

After the War the School Medical Service looks forward to the institution, *inter alia*, of :—

- (1) Special classes for children with defective speech.
- (2) Special classes for extremely myopic and partially blind children.
- (3) The establishment of the new special school for mentally defective children (including residential accommodation), at Fulford Field House.
- (4) The establishment of the new special school on the same site for physically defective children of all kinds.
- (5) More extensive teaching of physiology and hygiene, including that respecting sex, in our evening continuation schools.
- (6) The re-organisation of our infant schools so as to exclude the children under five years of age, with possibly the substitution of small nursery-schools for those children who require to be cared for during the daytime.

There was some considerable discussion in Committee on this vexed question during the year, and its further consideration was only deferred until after the War. Such nursery schools, each accommodating a maximum of say 30 scholars, could probably be readily provided in large existing houses, and should have gardens attached, and they would possess the following advantages :—the children would receive still more individual attention, and there would be less of the dangers of aggregation, *i.e.*, outbreaks of infectious and contagious disease could be much more easily suppressed or controlled therein.

(7) The regulation of the admission of children to cinema theatres, especially keeping in mind the late hours, the smoky, ill-ventilated atmosphere of these places, the eye-strain, and the strain upon small, delicate, impressionable brains watching moving pictures for an hour at a time.

(Signed) EDMUND M. SMITH, M.D., D.P.H.,
May, 1917. School Medical Officer.

THE BOARD OF EDUCATION TABLES.

TABLE 1.—NUMBER OF CHILDREN INSPECTED 1ST JANUARY, 1916, TO 31ST DECEMBER, 1916.
A.—“CODE” GROUPS.

AGE :—	ENTRANTS.						LEAVERS..					GRAND TOTAL..
	3	4	5	6	Other Ages.	Total.	12	13	14	Other Ages.	Total.	
Boys ..	—	—	41	30	—	71	50	60	—	—	110	181
Girls ..	—	—	30	34	—	64	45	66	—	—	111	175
Totals ..	—	—	71	64	—	135	95	126	—	—	221	356

B. GROUPS OTHER THAN “CODE.”

	Intermediate Group.	Special Cases.	Re-examinations. i.e., Number of children re-examined.
Boys	—	117	10
Girls	—	97	11
Totals	—	214	21

Abbreviated Form of Table 2.—RETURN OF DEFECTS FOUND IN THE COURSE OF MEDICAL INSPECTION.

DEFECT OR DISEASE.		CODE GROUPS.		SPECIALS.	
		Number referred for treatment.	Number requiring to be kept under observation, but not referred for treatment.	Number referred for treatment.	Number requiring to be kept under observation, but not referred for treatment.
Skin	Malnutrition	—	69	—	41
	Uncleanliness—Head	50	—	21	2
	Body	—	24	1	10
	Ringworm—Head	—	—	—	—
..	Body	—	—	—	—
	Scabies	1	—	—	—
	Impetigo	2	1	5	—
	Other Disease..	4	2	2	—
Eye	Defective Vision and Squint	76	8	41	2
	External Eye Disease	4	3	5	—
	Defective Hearing	9	—	14	—
	Ear Disease	8	—	6	—
Ear	Dental Disease	307	—	124	—
	Enlarged Tonsils	21	1	9	1
	Adenoids	2	—	13	—
	Enlarged Tonsils and Adenoids	2	—	—	—
Nose and Throat ..	Defective Speech	—	10	—	12
	Heart Disease—Organic	6	3	4	1
	Functional ..	—	—	—	—
	Anæmia	3	4	7	—
Heart and Circulation {	Pulmonary Tuberculosis—Definite..	2	—	1	—
	Suspected	4	—	—	—
	Chronic Bronchitis	—	—	—	—
	Other Disease..	3	20	8	5
Lungs	Epilepsy	1	—	3	—
	Chorea	—	—	—	—
	Other Disease	—	2	—	—
	Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis—Glands	1	—	2	5
Nervous System ..	Bones and Joints	—	—	—	—
	Other Forms	1	—	1	—
	Rickets	—	7	—	4
	Deformities	—	17	—	14
Other Defects or Diseases ..	Other Defects or Diseases	8	22	3	10

TABLE 3.—NUMERICAL RETURN OF ALL EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN IN THE AREA.

		Boys.	Girls.	TOTAL.
BLIND.	Attending Public Elementary Schools (partially blind—6/60 or less)	20	27	47
	Attending Certified Schools for the Blind	5	2	7
	Not at School	—	—	—
DEAF AND DUMB.	Attending Public Elementary Schools (partially deaf—5 ft. or less)	24	20	44
	Attending Certified Schools for the Deaf	7	3	10
	Not at School	—	—	—
MENTALLY DEFICIENT.	Attending Public Elementary Schools	—	7	7
	Attending Certified Schools for Mentally Defective Children	49	1	50
	Notified to the Local Control Authority during the year	†	—	—
	Not at School	2	—	2
	At School	—	—	—
IMBECILES.	Notified to Local Control Authority during the year	—	—	—
	Not at School	1	2	3
	Notified to Local Control Authority during the year	—	—	—
EPILEPTICS.	Attending Public Elementary Schools	9	7	16
	Attending Certified Schools for Epileptics	2	1	3
	Not at School	2	—	2
PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS.	Attending Public Elementary Schools	4	3	7
	Attending Certified Schools for Physically Defective Children (passed through in 1916)	8	11	19
	Not at School	4	8	12
OTHER FORMS OF TUBERCULOSIS.	Attending Public Elementary Schools	10	16	26
	Attending Certified Schools for Physically Defective Children (passed through in 1916)	14	11	25
	Not at School	14	7	21
CRIPPLES OTHER THAN TUBERCULAR.	Attending Public Elementary Schools	25	34	59
	Attending Certified Schools for Physically Defective Children	—	—	—
	Not at School	4	3	7
DULL OR BACKWARD.*	Retarded 2 Years	194	223	417
	Retarded 3 Years	65	86	151

* Judged according to age and standard.

† One boy recommended to Local Control Authority as a suitable case to be placed under guardianship on leaving the special school at 16 years of age.

TABLE 4.—TREATMENT OF DEFECTS OF CHILDREN DURING 1916.

	No. of defects found for which treatment was considered necessary			No. of defects for which no report is available. 1915-1916	1915 and 1916 cases :—	1915 and 1916 cases :—			Per-centage of defects treated.
	Untreated from previous year, 1915.	New cases (1916).	Total.			Results of treatment.			
						Remedied.	Im-proved.	Un-changed.	
Clothing ...	—	20	20	—	—	—	—	—	—
Footgear ...	—	35	35	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cleanliness of Head ...	—	71	71	—	71	71	—	—	100·0
Cleanliness of Body ...	—	1	1	—	1	1	—	—	100·0
Nutrition ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nose and Throat ...	106	47	153	31	24	17	7	98†	15·6
External Eye Disease ...	11	9	20	11	·9	9	—	—	45·0
Ear Disease ...	2	14	16	2	13	3	10	—	81·2
Teeth ...	959	431	1,390	446	585	261	324	359	42·0
Heart and Circulation ...	13	20	33	15	13	6	7	5	39·3
Lungs ...	98	18	116	97	18	16	2	1	15·5
Nervous System ...	7	4	11	10	—	—	—	1	—
Skin ...	16	14	30	20	10	9	—	—	33·3
Rickets ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Deformities ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis (non-pulmonary)	—	5	5	—	5	—	5	—	100·0
Speech ...	—	22	22	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mental Condition §	—	141	141	—	—	—	—	—	—
Vision and Squint...	56	117	173	31	114	23	86	28*	65·8
Hearing ...	14	23	37	6	18	9	9	13	48·6
Miscellaneous ...	2	11	13	—	9	9	—	4	69·2
Total ...	1,284	1,003	2,287	669†	890	434	451	510	—

* A number of these will be treated during 1917. † Some of these cases were slight; many could not get operative treatment because of war conditions. ‡ Many of these were “leavers” and had left school when “followed-up.” § All dull and backward except two mentally defective girls.

APPENDIX B.

TABLE A. 1916.

Showing the Total Number of Children Medically Inspected at the various age periods at certain of the Schools during the year 1916, together with the number and percentage of parents and guardians present during the Inspection.

(1)	(2)	(3)				(4)				(5)	
School.	Total Children Inspected.	Code Groups. Age-Periods and Sex. (B=boys. G=girls).				Special Cases at other Age-Periods.				Number and Percentage of Parents present.	
		5—7		12—14		Upper.		Infants.			
		B.	G.	B.	G.	B.	G.	B.	G.	No.	Percentages
Scarcroft Road	125	5	8	43	23	17	19	6	4	37	29·6
St. Clement's	305	59	52	65	84	6	29	5	5	79	25·9
Bilton Street..	54	—	—	2	4	23	25	—	—	5	9·2
Layerthorpe ..	12	7	4	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	16·6
Holgate Bridge	46	—	—	—	—	46	—	—	—	—	—
Open-Air ..	28	—	—	—	—	12	13	1	2	—	—
Totals ..	570	71	64	110	111	104	86	13	11	123	21·5

135

221

190

24

Total Boys, 298. Total Girls, 272.

570.

TABLE B.—1916.—Investigation throughout the York Elementary Schools with a view to the detection of Scalp Ringworm, Nits, &c., amongst the scholars.

TOTALS AND PERCENTAGES.	BOYS (Upper).			BOYS (Infants).			GIRLS (Upper).			GIRLS (Infants).		
	Total examined.	Ring-worm.	Nits, &c.	Total examined.	Ring-worm.	Nits, &c.	Total examined.	Ring-worm.	Nits, &c.	Total examined.	Ring-worm.	Nits, &c.
Totals 1916	4,482	13	34	1,947	3	44	4,661	10	770	1,799	3	251
Percentages	—	0.29	0.75	—	0.15	2.25	—	0.21	16.5	—	0.16	13.9
Totals 1915	4,156	—	43	1,677	2	31	4,856	—	679	1,634	3	219
Percentages	—	—	1.0	—	0.1	1.8	—	—	13.9	—	0.1	13.4
Percentages for 1909 (First whole year of medical inspection)	3,659	—	—	1,672	—	—	3,726	—	—	1,596	—	—
		3.0	7.8		5.3	11.2		2.2	52.0		3.0	56.0
Both sexes—all ages.				Percentages in previous years:—								
				1916.			1915.			1914.		
				Total Cases.	Percentage.		1915.		1914.		1913.	
				29	0.22		0.04		0.03		0.1	
Ringworm	...	...	...	1099	8.52		7.8		8.1		5.8	
Verminous conditions (Nits and Lice)												
Total No. of children examined	...			12,889			12,323		12,148		12,755	
											11,526	
											10,065	
											11,591	
											10,653	

Table C.—1916.—Cases of Disease notified to the Office by Head Teachers under “The Regulations regarding Contagious Diseases” (per Forms A and C) during the year.

Disease or Condition.	Absentees notified by Head Teachers.				Suspects sent Home from School by Head Teachers in 1916.		TOTAL ABSENTEES AND SUSPECTS.
	Upper Dept.		Infants' Dept.		Upper Dept.	Infants' Dept.	
	1916	1915	1916	1915	1916	1916	1916 1915
Scarlet Fever ..	27	31	10	15	3	0	40 56
Diphtheria ..	2	12	3	5	—	0	5 19
Sore Throat ..	111	96	30	46	30	10	181 189
Mumps ..	18	23	30	23	10	5	63 63
Measles ..	79	55	225	449	17	11	332 559
Whooping Cough..	26	27	179	178	5	15	225 228
Chickenpox ..	30	26	146	123	7	6	189 173
Influenza or Cold ..	154	159	183	240	2	28	367 474
Pneumonia ..	—	—	—	5	—	—	5 5
Ophthalmia or Sore Eyes ..	144	47	113	35	38	30	325 109
Blepharitis (sore eye-lids) ..	1	4	2	2	4	—	7 8
Ringworm ..	36	36	36	35	19	9	100 106
“Sore head” ..							
“Dirty head” ..							
Impetigo ..	108	81	107	88	56	36	307 248
“Eczema ..							
Head Lice ..	20	4	3	3	13	3	39 13
Body Lice ..	2	2	—	3	5	1	8 5
Scabies (Itch) ..	36	1	10	5	19	1	66 7
Enlarged Glands ..	19	19	21	6	3	3	46 30
Tubercular Conditions ..	4	8	4	11	—	—	8 20
Various ..	383	363	272	332	73	29	757 792
Totals ..	1,200	994	1,374	1,604	304	187	3,065 3,104

1916:—2 cases of Scarlet Fever, 1 Diphtheria, 7 Sore Throat, 32 Mumps, 44 Measles, 43 Whooping Cough, 23 Chickenpox, 37 Cold, 11 Scabies, 17 Enlarged Glands, 8 Ophthalmia, 1 Blepharitis, 5 Ringworm, 14 Impetigo, and 5 Tubercular Suspects turned out to be some disease or condition different from that suspected or notified by the Head Teachers, but most were worthy of investigation.